GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:12
ANSWERED ON:02.02.2017
National Service Scheme
Mahto Dr. Banshilal

Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the salient features and objectives of the National Service Scheme (NSS);
(b) the number of universities and school/ educational institutions along with the number of students that are part of NSS in the country, State/ UT-wise including Chhattisgarh; and
(c) the details of the activities in which students/ participants are involved under NSS.

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
FOR YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS
(SHRI VIJAY GOEL)
(a) to (c): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (C) OF STARRED QUESTION NO.12 TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.02.2017 REGARDING NATIONAL SERVICE SCHEME ASKED BY DR. BANSHILAL MAHATO.

(a) National Service Scheme (NSS) was introduced in 1969 with the primary objective of developing the personality and character of the student youth through voluntary community service. 'Education through Service' is the purpose of the NSS. The ideological orientation of the NSS is inspired by the ideals of Mahatma Gandhi. Very appropriately, the motto of NSS is "NOT ME, BUT YOU". An NSS volunteer places the 'community' before 'self'.

NSS is being implemented in Senior Secondary Schools, Colleges and Universities. NSS was implemented as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme upto 2015-16. However, from 01.04.2016, it is being implemented as a Central Sector Scheme. The administration of the Scheme is a collaborative effort between the Central Government, the States/ UTs and the educational institutions. In each educational institutions having NSS, there is at least one NSS unit comprising of 100 student volunteers (lesser strength in some cases), led by a teacher designated as Programme Officer (PO), who plays a pivotal role as an educator, organiser, coordinator, supervisor, administrator and public relations person for the NSS unit under him. Each NSS unit adopts a village or slum for taking up its activities. The Programme Officers are imparted training through empanelled training institutions, in order to enable them to discharge their duties effectively. In order to administer the programme effectively, there are NSS Cells at University level and State level and a Directorate of NSS (with regional offices) under the Ministry. In addition, there are Advisory Committees at various levels, comprising of official and non-official members, to provide necessary guidance to the NSS functionaries.

Objectives of NSS: NSS aims at developing the following qualities/ competencies among the volunteers:

a) To understand the community in which the NSS volunteers work and to understand themselves in relation to their community;
b) To identify the needs and problems of the community and involve themselves in problemsolving exercise;
c) To develop among themselves a sense of social and civic responsibility;
d) To utilize their knowledge in finding practical solutions to individual and community problems;
e) To gain skills in mobilizing community participation;
f) To acquire leadership qualities and democratic values;
g) To develop capacity to meet emergencies and natural disasters; and
h) To practice national integration and social harmony.
NSS attempts to establish meaningful linkages between 'Campus and Community', 'College and Village' and 'Knowledge and Action'.
(b) NSS has about 36.58 lakh volunteers enrolled in 39,695 NSS units spread over 391 Universities/ +2 Councils, 16,278 Colleges/ Technical Institutions and 12,483 Senior Secondary Schools. The State/ UT-wise breakup of enrolment, including that of Chhattisgarh, is given at Annexure-I.
(c) Each NSS volunteer is required to put in minimum 120 hours of service per year for two years, i.e., total 240 hours. This work is undertaken in villages/ slums adopted by NSS unit or in school/ college campuses, usually after study hours or during weekends/ vacations. In addition, each volunteer is required to attend at least one Special Camp of 7 days' duration during the 2-year period, organised by the NSS unit, in the adopted villages/ urban slums. The activities under NSS continue to evolve in response to needs of the community. Some of the areas of activity are literacy and education, health & family welfare, sanitation and cleanliness, environment conservation, women's empowerment, disaster relief and rehabilitation, etc. NSS volunteers play an important role in creating awareness about development programmes and against social evils. In addition to these core activities, NSS volunteers also participate in some other important activities like Republic Day Parade, Adventure Camps, National Integration Camps and North East NSS Festivals, 'Suvichar' and 'Youth Convention' events during the National Youth Festival, Self-Defence Training for NSS Volunteers, etc.
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